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DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS

HEAD OFFICE REGIONAL OFFICES

PORTS OF ENTRY

**OPERATIONAL CENTRE** 

**VISA APPLICATION CENTRES** 

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & COOPERATION

**CONSULAR SERVICES** 

**IMMIGRATION DIRECTIVE NO 19 OF 2016** 

VISA ADJUDICATION SYSTEM (VAS) CHANGES: REPLACEMENT OF "ISSUE DATE" WITH "VALID FROM" ON PRINTED TEMPORARY RESIDENCE VISAS ISSUED BY HOME AFFAIRS PERMITTING OFFICE IN PRETORIA

The Immigration Act, No.13 of 2002 stipulates that upon admission, a foreigner, who is not a holder of a permanent residence permit, may enter and sojourn in the Republic only if in possession of a visa issued by the Director-General for a prescribed period.

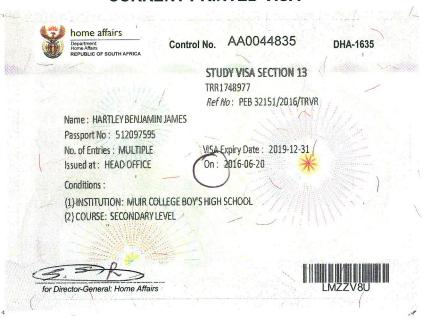
In order to ensure that the validity period granted for each category of a temporary residence visa is issued as prescribed by the Immigration Act, the Visa Adjudication System (VAS) of the Department of Home Affairs has been upgraded to ensure that the correct dates are allocated to the visa applicant.

With effect from the 01<sup>st</sup> of August 2016, all printed visa issued through VAS will now have the "Issue Date" replaced with "Valid From". Adjudicators will now be required to capture the "Valid From" date manually into the system. Previously the system was calculating the validity period from the date of issue, which in most cases resulted in applicants being granted a shorter validity period than what they had applied for or as prescribed by the Immigration Regulations.

The "Valid From" date will enable adjudicators to capture a future date which should be the date after which the current visa that the applicant currently has in their passport expires. It is envisaged that this minor system change will reduce the administrative burden of having to rectify visas that are issued with incorrect dates. The visa issued with a "Valid From" validity date will only become valid on the date reflected on the visa.

Please see below a sample of the current printed visa and the new format of the printed visa.

## **CURRENT PRINTED VISA**



## **NEW PRINTED VISA WITH CHANGES**



**MKUSELI APLENI** 

**DIRECTOR-GENERAL** 

DATE: 15/08/2016

This Immigration Directive follows Immigration Directive No.18 of 2016: "Visas in respect of specialists and researchers using Cape Town as corridor to and from Antartica".